

Economic Development Committee Minutes
September 5, 2012 – 4:00p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Peck, A. Johnson, Kinowski, Richardson, Sausville, Collyer and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning; League of Women Voters; Press.

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the August 1st and 15th meetings were approved unanimously.

Mr. Bardunias from the Southern Chamber gave a brief presentation. He said the Chamber has worked very hard to create a successful business environment, creating 45 years as the counties destination for success. He said they view themselves as a regional powerhouse where they have been able to bring together three major manufacturers, including General Electric, Global Foundries and Momentive. The Chamber believes it is bringing together the interests of the small businesses of the community, which accounts for the majority of jobs, by helping them interact with the larger businesses, he said.

Mr. Bardunias said the Southern Chamber is 1,030 members strong working with all businesses. The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County has embarked on an initiative to bring together local business owners and nearby corporate partners to make a tangible difference in each of the 15 municipalities. The Chamber has spent a lot of time trying to make an impact in helping businesses such as holding membership dues flat in 2012, and volunteering time and/or sponsoring events in municipalities throughout the county.

Mr. Richardson said the Chamber has helped to showcase Mechanicville in several different areas, and it has been very helpful to the City. He said he is looking forward to working with the Chamber with regard to the train station in Mechanicville, which is their next big project.

Mr. Sausville said at the end of the day it is all about relationships. He commended Mr. Bardunias for his efforts to meet with himself and other officials in Malta, as well as small businesses in the community.

Mr. Kemper requested acceptance of a Snowmobile Grant, which is pass through money that is shared by all snowmobile clubs in the county. He said the amount of funds varies from year to year, with the maximum that has been received in the past of \$89,000. He said he was advised that last year snowmobile registrations were 90,000 compared to the previous year of 136,000 registered snowmobiles. All clubs have been advised, as they depend on those funds for developing new trails, that funding will most likely be significantly reduced for the 2013 snowmobile season.

A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Richardson to accept a Snowmobile Grant in an amount not to exceed \$89,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief update on the Capital Region Sustainability Plan. He said this was a CFA application where approximately \$1 million was granted to prepare a Sustainability Cleaner/Greener Plan for the greater capital region. The City of Albany was the lead applicant, with participating counties of Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Green, Columbia, Rensselaer and Washington Counties. Phase 1 is developing a Sustainability Cleaner/Greener Plan for the capital region, with the process half completed. Phase 11 will be the implementation of the plan. There have been discussions about an anticipated \$80 million to \$90 million of available funding to accomplish the goals from the plan. The overall goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and regional sustainability. There are nine technical committees as a part of the group, covering climate adaptation, economic development, energy, food systems, land use, livability, transportation, waste and water. All of these technical committees have met at least one time and some of them have met up to three times, where each committee has developed a preliminary list of best practices to be included in the sustainability plan. He said on September 21st there will be an Economic Development Technical Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Daly said she attended the last Economic Development Council meeting where a review of CSEA took place, as they had been rated by council members. A review of most of the applications was done, where there were nine applications that scored 9 or higher matching the strategic plan that was written. She said there were a couple of applications from Saratoga County that were elevated to a level that they were not previously at based on the review at the Council meeting.

Ms. Daly said Mr. Kinowski has taken on the charge of trying to get the County and Committee to bring forward a strategic plan. She said that a lot of work has been done over the last couple of years, going down a path of new direction that has never been memorialized in any kind of print form. It was decided that there should be a written document that could be handed on to other committees.

Mr. Kinowski said he has been working with Mr. Lewis from the Economic Department at SUNY, who has a number of graduate students interested in doing a number of different studies. He said he contacted Mr. Lewis to see if there was any interest in potentially doing a study that would put together a strategic plan for Saratoga County, and Mr. Lewis has indicated an interest. He said he would keep the committee informed on any progress.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom